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PREVENTION BETTER THAN TRAPS,
SAYS LEAFLET ON BIRDS OF PREY

Most of the destruction of poultry by hawks and owls can be prevented by furnishing hatching coops, by keeping chicks in closed runs, and by training grown fowls to roost in houses, says W. L. McAtee, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, in Leaflet 96-L, just issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The leaflet entitled, "Protecting Poultry from Predacious Birds," outlines various preventive measures. It recommends basket traps for use when preventive methods cannot be practiced but discusses other traps also. The leaflet includes illustrations of both preventive and aggressive measures.

Predacious birds are not sweepingly condemned in the publication. On the contrary, the Bureau of Biological Survey advocates protection for all hawks and owls except the Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, the goshawk, and the great horned owl. Many hawks and most owls, it is stated, are great consumers of small rodents, and the balance of the economic effects of their feeding habits is decidedly in the right direction.

Prevention, the leaflet emphasizes, is therefore the more desirable means of protecting poultry against the birds of prey; it safeguards the poultry without resort to the destruction of chiefly valuable wild birds.